

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078108
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TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078108

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET, LY, UR

SUBJECT: SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER KHALID'S CALL ON UNDER
SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HABIB

1. SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOUR KHALID CALLED ON
UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS PHILIP HABIB ON
APRIL 5.

2. LIBYA WAS A PRIMARY CONCERN TO KHALID WHO REFERRED
TO QADHAFI AS A NEW MUSSOLINI. IF SOMETHING WERE NOT
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DONE TO STOP HIM SOON, HIS DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR WOULD
EMBROIL EVEN LARGER AREAS IN DIFFICULTY. THE FOREIGN
MINISTER HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF A CONSIDERABLE CUBAN
PRESENCE IN LIBYA, AND CITED THE ADMITTEDLY INCREDIBLE
FIGURE OF 5,000. QADHAFI HAD ALREADY TAKEN CONTROL OF A
LARGE PORTION OF CHAD, AND WAS AIDING PRESIDENT AMIN OF
UGANDA. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE TUNISIAN

FOREIGN MINISTER, QADHAFI HAD REJECTED A PROPOSED NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE OFF-SHORE OIL DISPUTE AND HAD CHALLENGED THE TUNISIANS TO FIGHT IF THEY CONTESTED LIBYA'S CLAIMS. QADHAFI HAD REPORTEDLY SAID THAT LIBYA WAS ALREADY STRONGER THAN TUNISIA AND ALGERIA AND WOULD SOONER BE STRONGER THAN EGYPT. HABIB NOTED THAT COLONEL QADHAFI HAD OCCASIONALLY TRIED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH

THE UNITED STATES, BUT WE HAD MAINTAINED SOME DISTANCE BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE TREATED HIS NEIGHBORS.

3. CONCERNING THE HORN, KHALID SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS, PRESIDENT SIAD NOW ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS DANGER FROM THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOMALIA. THE SAUDIS WERE INTERESTED IN THE AREA AND PRINCE SAUD WOULD SHORTLY GO TO ADEN AND MOGADISCIO. KHALID CLAIMED THAT EVEN SOUTH YEMEN WAS NOW READY FOR DIPLOMATIC RE-ORIENTATION SINCE CHAIRMAN SALIM RUBAYI ALI NOW HAD THE UPPER HAND AND WAS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES. THE SOUTH YEMENIS CLAIMED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER PROMISED TO SEND TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO ADEN BUT THEY HAD NEVER ARRIVED. HABIB REPLIED THAT ONE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT THE SOUTH YEMENIS TENDED TO PUT A PRICE TAG ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. SUCH AN APPROACH MISTOOK BOTH THE MONEY AVAILABLE TO AND THE INCLINATIONS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. IF THE USG HAD THAT SORT OF MONEY, IT WOULD BE BETTER SPENT IN THE SUDAN THAN IN SOUTH YEMEN.

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4. KHALID SAID THAT SOMALIA NOW ACCEPTED THE INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI AS A FACT OF LIFE. GIVEN THE MODERATE ARAB INTEREST, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SOMALIS TO ATTACK DJIBOUTI. ETHIOPIA HOWEVER MIGHT WELL DO SO, ESPECIALLY IF THEY LOST ERITREA. A CONTINUED FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI WAS THEREFORE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. HABIB REPLIED THAT THE FRENCH WISHED US TO ESTABLISH A CONSULATE GENERAL, AND WE WERE OPENING ONE ON APRIL 25.

5. KHALID BELIEVED MATTERS WERE GOING BADLY IN ZAIRE. HE HAD HEARD THAT THE REBELS IN KATANGA HAD TANKS, ALTHOUGH, WHEN QUESTIONED, HE ADMITTED THAT THE INFORMATION CAME FROM THIRD-COUNTRY SOURCES. WHEN ASKED WHAT THE AFRICANS WERE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION, KHALID OFFERED LITTLE COMFORT, EXCEPT THAT SUDAN MEANT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN BORDERS AT THE LIBREVILLE SUMMIT. (IN A LATER MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, KHALID SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF LEGITIMATE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.)

6. IN CONCLUSION FOREIGN MINISTER KHALID ASKED FOR THE
UNITED STATES TO MOVE FASTER IN ITS PROGRAMS FOR THE SUDAN.

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